



The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

Field Day 2009—CDXA Returns to Charlotte

Ken Boyd, K4DXA, and
Dick Williams, W3OA

In 2007 and 2008 CDXA made history by setting two Field Day class records, Class 4E (home station, four transmitters, emergency power) in 2007 and Class 5E (home station, five transmitters, emergency power) in 2008. This year we will make a run at the Class 3E record from the QTH of Ken Boyd, K4DXA. This is a return to the scene of CDXA's operations in 2004 and 2005. We placed third in our category both those years, 2E, and should be able to have a very competitive entry again this year.

Here's the plan:

W4VHF	Ted Goldthorpe	President
AD4IE	Paul Ponak	Vice-Pres.
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
W3OA	Dick Williams	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	Cluster Mgr.- North Area
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

Time/Date:	2 p.m. Saturday, June 27 th , to 2 p.m. Sunday, June 28 th .
Location:	QTH of K4DXA in Mint Hill.
Class:	3E (home station, three transmitters, emergency power), 150 watts or less.
Stations:	Two CW stations and one SSB station. Two in the house, one in the garage. One will be all bands, 160 through 10.

One will be on 80 through 10.

One will be single band on 40.

Antennas:	160 – Dipole	80 – Two dipoles
	40 – Two element beam, verticals, dipoles	20 – Two tribanders, four square, verticals
	15 – Two tribanders, vertical	10 – Two tribanders, vertical

Two Work Days are planned: One will be Saturday, June 20th, one week before Field Day, beginning at 10 a.m.
One will be June 26th, the Friday before Field Day, to complete set up.

We need operators - If you are interested in joining our winning operation, please contact Dick at w3oa@roadrunner.com or (704) 658-0915. Let him know when you can be available and your preferred operating mode(s).

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems		
W4DXA (11 mi. NE of Mooresville)	144.93 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.00 MHz (9600 bits/second)
K4MD Charlotte, NC	144.91 MHz (1200 bits/second)	Not Available on 9600 bits/second
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com	
NA4L (Near Hillsville, VA)	144.95 MHz (1200 bits/second) Connect to NA4L ("C NA4L")	
NA4L (AR Cluster via Telnet)	cdxa.no-ip.org	
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC	
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org	
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Murphy's Food and Spirits, 131 E. Woodlawn Road, Charlotte, NC	

Unaltered FCC BPL Studies Released (Late Breaking News!)

(The text below is reproduced from The ARRL Letter, Vol. 28, No. 18, dated May 8, 2009)

==> FCC RELEASES REDACTED BPL CASE STUDIES AFTER ARRL FOIA REQUEST

Earlier this month, the FCC released the redacted portions of the studies on which they relied with regard to its Broadband over Powerline (BPL) rulemaking in 2004 after ARRL filed an Freedom of Information Act request

http://www.arrl.org/news/files/BPL_FOIA_Request033109.pdf on March 31 for the studies. In October 2007, the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit heard ARRL's case against the Commission

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/10/25/102/>, stating, among other things, that the FCC not only withheld the internal studies until it was too late to comment, but had yet to release portions of studies that may not support its own conclusions regarding BPL. The FCC claimed that the studies were "internal communications" that it did not rely upon in reaching its decision to adopt the BPL rules. In its April 2008 ruling, the Court ordered the FCC to release the studies

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/25/10064/>.

In its decision, the Court agreed with the ARRL that the FCC had failed to comply with the Administrative Procedure Act (APA)

http://biotech.law.lsu.edu/Courses/study_aids/adlaw/ by not fully disclosing for public comment the staff

studies on which it relied and that "there is no APA precedent allowing an agency to cherry-pick a study on which it has chosen to rely in part." Writing for the three-judge panel of Circuit Judges Rogers, Tatel and Kavanaugh, Judge Rogers summarized in the Court's decision that "The Commission failed to satisfy the notice and comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act ('APA') by redacting studies on which it relied in promulgating the rule and failed to provide a reasoned explanation for its choice of the extrapolation factor for measuring Access BPL emissions." The Court concluded that "no precedent sanctions such a 'hide and seek' application of the APA's notice and comment requirements."

Judge Tatel agreed with Judge Rogers, saying, "[I]n this very case the Commission redacted individual lines from certain pages on which it otherwise relied...there is little doubt that the Commission deliberately attempted to 'exclude [] from the record evidence adverse to its position'"

After almost a year after the Court's decision, the FCC had done "literally nothing" about releasing the complete studies

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/03/04/10685/>.

When President Obama came into office in January 2009, new Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) guidelines <http://www.state.gov/m/a/ips/> were put in place. Using these new guidelines, the ARRL filed an FOIA request on March 31 for the studies. The FCC responded to the FOIA request and released the unredacted studies the last week of April.

A look at the unredacted studies show that the FCC knew BPL was not a point source, but these same studies in redacted form show just the opposite—information proving BPL was not a point source was deleted. In one study concerning Main.net's BPL system, the FCC clearly disregarded information provided by a BPL provider's Chief Technical Officer, considering the point -- "[i]f distance scaling were based on distance to the pole ground wire rather than the nearest part of the BPL system, measurements would have passed with 1 dB margin at the selected quasi-peak measurement location" -- as "invalid"

<http://www.arrl.org/news/files/Redacted1.pdf>.

Another unredacted study from 2003 in Allentown, Pennsylvania, plainly showed that BPL was not a point source, noting: "NOT A POINT SOURCE. Emissions exhibit no noticeable decay 230 m down from the cou-

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The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association
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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Dues are \$30 per year for those using the PacketCluster maintained by the Association, \$15 otherwise, payable each December. Dues are payable by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: jcw53@cornell.edu.

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pler." In the redacted version, this information was deleted, but all other information, including a graph, was left intact

<http://www.arrl.org/news/files/Redacted2.pdf>.

A study regarding Access BPL showed the same thing, but all information had been redacted from the file, leaving just a blank page. The unredacted study concluded that "The tested overhead PLC devices do not act as point sources. Emission from line shows virtually no decay 230 m from coupler. Differential two-wire signal injection affects the polarization of radiated emissions from overhead devices"

<http://www.arrl.org/news/files/Redacted3.pdf>.

"Comparing the redacted and unredacted documents will take some time," ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said, "but these three sets of pages...show exactly what prompted Judge Tatel to say what he did. We are continuing to analyze all the documents and we'll see just what has been going on."

(The information above lends high credibility to the ARRL's claim, apparently ignored by the FCC, that the signal decay with distance from a BPL line is far less than the FCC used to justify their rulemaking allowing BPL services in 2004. All links in the article are active. The reader is encouraged to read at least the "redacted" data links—The Editor)

Ten and Twenty Years Ago

Ten Years Ago:

3B9FR from Rodriquez Island was just concluding and CDXA President Bob Burton was lamenting the slow uptake in the solar flux numbers (he should be writing his Presidential notes today!). . . . Editor Don Daso, K4ZA, was waxing philosophical in an editorial in the *Pileup* about the "truth's" of Amateur Radio—Hamfest attendance is declining and weather forecasting and radio propagation have a lot in common. In the case of propagation, Don cites that in both weather and propagation, the best persevere while the rest complain. And, we all know there are still plenty of ham's looking for bargains at hamfest flea markets An informative recap of a tower construction accident that took the life of the professional installer is important reading for anyone performing tower installations.

Twenty Years Ago:

Only three issues of the *Pileup* were produced in 1989 so content is somewhat sparse Jim Smith (VK9NS), who became a silent key in 2009, and Bob (KN6J) were currently active from Vanada as T33JS

and T33RAF3CW was active from Chad as TT8CW making many happy in the process Glorioso Island was to be active as FR5AI for a month beginning May 19 Ron Wright (ZL1AMO) was to be active from Tuvalu for two to three weeks beginning June 10 Martti Laine was currently active from Western Sahara as S01DX. Lots was happing in the DX world in 1989.

CQWW Contest "Trivia"

(Far from being the "trivia" suggested in its title, the following article comes from the April 29, 2009 issue of QRZ DX. Thank you, Carl, N4AA.)

For the first time, more than 10,000 logs have been submitted for the CQ World Wide DX Contest, according to Contest Director Bob Cox, K3EST. In addition, Cox reports that the number of CW logs exceeded the number of phone logs for the first time in more than 20 years.

According to Cox, there were a total of 5013 SSB logs and 5272 CW logs submitted for the 2008 running of the event, for a total of 10,285 logs. This is the first time that the CQWW—already world's most popular Amateur radio contest – has broken the 10,000 log mark. Of these, nearly 98% were submitted electronically.

It is also the first time since 1986 that more CW logs have been submitted than SSB logs. "This is a clear indication," says Cox, "not only of the health of contesting and of CW, but of ham radio as a whole." In addition, the logs contained the call signs of more than 50,000 different Amateur stations making at least one contest contact, indicating that many more stations participate in the CQWW Contest than submit logs.

SSB results of the 2008 CQWW Contest will be published in the August 2009 issue of CQ magazine; CW results will appear in the September issue.

Well, wadda you know???

(From Thomas Wright. . .--The Editor)

John, I thought you might be interested in this random tidbit for the *Pileup*.

I was at the intersection of Carmel & Fairview the other day and I noticed that 3 CDXA members were stopped at the light--W4PVT (Mac), N4ZX (John), and myself.

--Thomas, N4HN

(What are the odds, mathematicians?)

Midway Island Bound!!

Joe Blackwell recently sent out the note below on the CDXA mail reflector:

"For a good looking Tee Shirt go to:

<http://www.midway2009.com/kh4ops.html> (pictured below)

The photo is yours truly at Lakshadweep Islands, VU7RG. The shirt was donated by Carol and Gary Dixon in 2001 for my first ever DXpedition to Pratas island, BQ9P, along with Ken Cannaday, W4NZC.

This shirt will go on it's 22nd DXpedition when October comes and we are on Midway Island, K4M.

73 & gud dx,
de Joe, aa4nn"



Southern Hospitality (Southern Italy, that is)

By Josh Fisher, W4WJF

I recently had the enjoyable opportunity of attending the 6th Annual Strange Radio Team International DX Convention in Salerno, Italy on April 18 and 19. Before leaving for Italy, I was contacted by Norm Fusaro, W3IZ from the ARRL with some inside information about how this particular convention might be a little different from others found in the US. He said that it

would be an event that would focus on the people and spending time together. Norm and his XYL Debbie, N3ZXF had already been to two SRT conventions, fell in love with the event and gave the highest praise to me about it. My host for the trip was Oreste D'Anzilio IZ8EDJ, the president of the SRT. He housed me, Norm and Debbie, as well as a few other speakers and guests in his home for the event. He could have easily allowed us to stay in the hotel along with many other SRT members but he wanted to make sure we felt welcome. This was just a sign of the hospitality to come.



My host, Oreste D'Anzilio, IZ8EDJ, at his home.

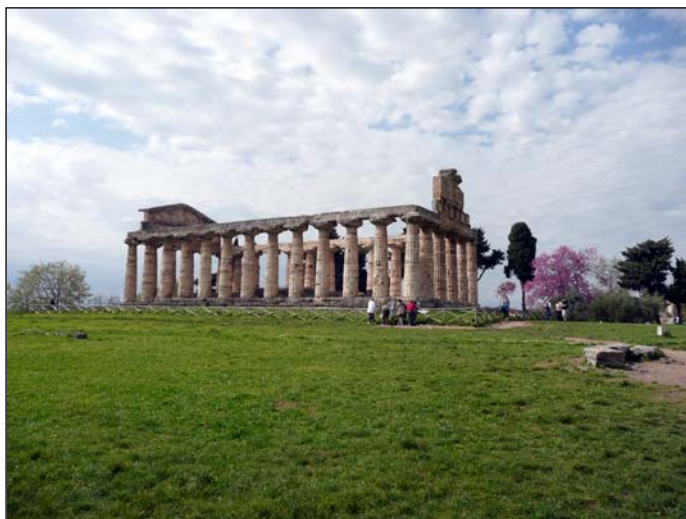
Once I arrived in Italy, I knew Norm was dead on with his recommendations. I was picked up at the airport in Naples by Oreste and some others who had just arrived as well. Once we made our way into Salerno we visited a mozzarella shop to be treated to the famous buffalo mozzarella of the Campania region. It was delicious but Oreste was not satisfied with the amount I ate. I remember hearing the words "mangia," which in Italian is a command to eat. Little did I know this would start a trend that would continue for every meal I would eat in the country under Oreste's watch. He noticed that I was a little skinnier than some of the others and felt that maybe I hadn't been eating much. Well, as most of you know, that couldn't be further from the truth at all; I am just blessed with a high metabolism. He was only trying to make sure I had enough to eat and that I was able to get the most out of my stay.

You might be able to guess what happened on Saturday during the gala that included a five-course meal? You got it. ¡Mangia! ¡Mangia! I indeed did eat well and thoroughly enjoyed the seafood and pasta dishes

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that came my way. While I am it, the gala on Saturday night included live singing and dancing during our formal Italian meal. The food was superb but the people were the highlight. The group of young Italian hams I ate with shared many stories about their ham experiences and even wanted to take photos with me. Later on, we were even graced by an opera piece sung by Oreste himself. Not to mention a dancing demonstration of American classics, such as the YMCA and the Macarena. As you can tell, there was quite a mix of entertainment and I feel it represented the southern (Italian) hospitality quite well.



In Southern Italy history and antiquity is ever-present. Here is the Temple of Athena in Paestum, Italy

As far as the business side of things, I feel that my presentation about my trip with VK9DWX to Willis Island was well received. This was obviously the reason for my trip but was only a small part of the weekend's activities. For those of you who heard my presentation at the Charlotte Hamfest, you know my motive was to encourage future DXpeditioners to take rookies under their wings on their next trip—both financially as well as mentors—like the Willis group did for me. I know this is a big task but it really hit home with this group because of their emphasis on the people and the time shared together. Obviously, I would love to go on another trip but I would rather someone else be able to enjoy the generosity of the ham community and have a once in a lifetime opportunity. For me I have been to Australia and Italy in the past seven months and I am truly grateful for each of these large blessings as well as all the others I have.

I am forever grateful for the Strange Radio Team for their kindness and hospitality just as I am for CDXA and the constant support I have received from you. If you are interested in seeing more photos of my trip, you can visit my photo album at:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/joshfisherncsu/Italy>

—73, Josh Fisher W4WJF

Which way is North?

Let's say you are a purist, and you want to point your beam at geographic North rather than relying on your magnetic compass and your guesstimate of local magnetic variation. How do you do it?

There is a lot of good information buried in earlier copies of the *Pileup*, if you know how to find it. Back in the October 2000 issue of the *Pileup*, Bob Burton (N4PQX) tells us that the U. S. Naval Observatory has a website that will tell you the clock time of "local noon" if you give their calculator your city location for the date you want to set your beam heading. The URL of the site is:

<http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data>

After you get to that web location, look for the link to "Positions of Celestial Objects" and then find the link to "Azimuth and Elevation of the Sun and Moon in One Day". Using Form A you can enter the date, the state, and the city you live in. Choose "The Sun" as your celestial body. You will be presented a chart that shows in local standard clock time the azimuth and elevation of the sun. Find the time in the chart (the chart is in "standard" rather than "daylight savings" time) when the azimuth of the Sun is as close to 180 degrees as you can. Put a stick in the ground perpendicular to the Earth. When your watch synchronized with WWV reads the "standard time" corresponding to the Sun's azimuth being 180 degrees, the shadow of the stick will be pointing to geographical North.

Thank Bob Burton for this tidbit. Now in the middle of his tenth year of editing *The Pileup*, your editor might be able to quickly tell you if an old issue has what you need on other topics. Drop him a line. The worst that can happen is that we haven't had an article on your subject of interest in 10 years!



DX King News

Dick Williams, W3OA



The competitive juices are still flowing! Here are the scores I have as of April 30. So you thought the solar flux was “insufficient” to chase DX, huh? In four months of 2009 we have a number who can claim or nearly claim WAZ status. And how about working 150 entities in the same period—12 members have managed to do that. What are you waiting for?

<u>Call</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Countries</u>	<u>Zones</u>	<u>Total</u>
N4ZC	Unlimited	246	40	286
K4MQG	Unlimited	235	40	275
W4HG	Unlimited	198	39	237
W3OA	Unlimited	200	37	237
W3GQ	Unlimited	196	39	235
K4YR	Unlimited	192	40	232
AA4SC	Unlimited	187	39	226
N4PQX	Unlimited	176	40	216
W3ZL	Formula	162	35	197
KZ2I	Unlimited	152	39	191
WB4ROA	Unlimited	156	35	191
K4ESE	Unlimited	150	32	182
K4DGJ	Unlimited	141	34	175
N2TU	Unlimited	139	34	173
K8YC	Unlimited	136	33	169
K1MIJ*	Unlimited	130	28	158
N1GC*	Unlimited	123	33	156
WA3GNW	Formula	111	28	139
N4UFP	Unlimited	108	29	137
NK0S	Unlimited	98	29	127
WB2RHM	Unlimited	81	24	105

* New addition to the list this month.

Don't forget to send me (w3oa@roadrunner.com) your CQ DX Marathon scores as of the last day of each month after your score reaches 100. Remember a point total of 150 puts your name in the hat for the drawing for a 26" LCD TV in 2010.

W4WJF Wins YASME Scholarship

There is surely a lesson to be learned here. Josh Fisher, W4WJF, has earned a \$2,000 YASME Foundation scholarship to help complete his final year of schooling at North Carolina State University in computer engineering. Many of us in CDXA know Josh as the young man who has come to a number of CDXA luncheons, worked as an operator on the AA4ZZ VHF Contest station near Boone, NC and most recently, served as an operator on the Willis Island DXpedition, VK9DWX. Josh's trip to Willis Island was earned as a result of writing an essay on why he wished to be a member of the team.

What's the lesson to be learned? Josh has been the recipient of scholarship monies from amateur radio sources in all, or nearly all, of the past four years he's spent in college. Of course, one cannot minimize Josh's outstanding academic record, either. Yet, with so many young adults facing the rising costs of college tuition, we as amateur radio aficionados, parents, and grandparents, should be alerting our children/grandchildren to the significant opportunities that exist in amateur radio scholarships. The “side benefit” of being able to talk to people all over the world, learning something about technology, and learning geography are all “icing on the cake” that hams can enjoy for the rest of their lives.

Welcome New Members!!

As a result of the Charlotte Hamfest and the recently completed Southeast VHF Society Conference, we are pleased to be able to welcome **seven** new members to the ranks of CDXA. The new members are:

Kevin Watson, KJ4KOW, of Fort Mill, SC
 George Dominick, W4UWC, of Knoxville, TN
 John Corbin, K4JCX, of Charlotte, NC
 Gary Bader, KD4RH, of Elgin, SC (returning member)
 Gareth Christian, W4GDC, of Pineville, NC
 Walter Freeman, KN4CC, of Charlotte, NC
 John Zavakil, W4FRA, of Rocky Mount NC

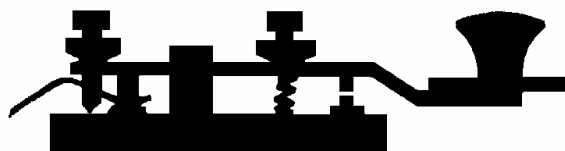
Welcome to all these new members. We look forward to seeing you again soon either on the airwaves or at one of the CDXA events.

The Missing Q signals

In January 2004, this publication carried a list of missing Q signals. The list continues to grow as needs dictate. Many innovative Q signals have never made it to the ARRL's official list. Here are some that may be useful in appropriate situations. Caution is needed here, however, because the signals on this list may not be universally understood. (HI HI) As with regular Q signals, each can be a statement or a question, depending on whether a question mark follows it.

- * QAS - I am speaking out of my a**
- * QAS? - Are you speaking out of your a**?
- * QBA - My antenna is BIG!
- * QBA? - How big is your antenna?
- * QBO - Don't sit next to that guy in the meeting.
- * QBO? - Buddy, can you spare some soap?
- * QBS - It's getting deep in here.
- * QBS? - Did I tell you about the one that got away?
- Alternate form of QBS suggested by others:
- * QBS - Clean the bird sh*t off your antenna so you can hear me
- * QBS? - Should I clean the bird sh*t off my antenna so I can hear you
- * QCP - I am using Cat Power (From Rotary Cat Power wheel—a suggestion made for spark gap transmitter on QRP-L mailing list)
- * QCP? - Are you using Cat Power?
- * QCW - I am going to whistle Morse Code on FM (or SSB)
- * QCW? - Why are you whistling Morse?
- * QDR - Damn Right the frequency is busy! (In response to QRL)
- * QDR? - Do you have a Receiver? (In response to QRL)
- * QET - Phone home.
- * QET? - Has anyone called me from another planet?
- * QEW - Copy is difficult due to Ear Wax.
- * QEW? - Is copy difficult due to Ear Wax?
- * QFH? - Is this frequency hogged?
- * QFH - This frequency is MINE—go elsewhere.
- * QHF? - When will the sunspot cycle start to show signs of life?
- * QHF - When hell freezes over.
- * QHI - I am jumping in quick to say hi, then going QRT.
- * QHI? - Are you leaving after only one transmission?
- * QKB? - How many knobs does your radio have?

- * QKB n - My radio has "n" knobs.
- * QKN? - How many of them (knobs) do you know how to use?
- * QKN n - I think I know how to use "n" of them.
- * QLF - I am sending with my left foot.
- * QLF? - Are you sending with your left foot?
- * QLK - I am sending with my left foot and key board.
- * QLK? - Are you sending with your left foot and key board?
- * QNO - I am sending through a non-standard orifice.
- * QNO? - Are you sending through a non-standard orifice?
- * QOF - Yes, I am an Old Fart.
- * QOF? - Are you an OF?
- * QOK - Your last transmission was Okie Dokie.
- * QOK? - Was my last transmission OK?
- * QPM - Your signal is purr modulated.
- * QPM? - Is my signal purr modulated?
- * QPP? - Do you need to take a leak?
- * QPP - I am taking a leak.
- * QRC - Warning, rag chewer on frequency.
- * QRC? - Are you a rag chewer?
- * QRG - You are transmitting in or near the (wave length) amateur band.
- * QRG? - Am I transmitting in or near an amateur band, and if so which one?
- * QRW - Same as Qrp - Really Weak
- * QRW? - Qrp, am I Really Weak?
- * QSP? - Are you using solar power?
- * QSP - Al Gore is happy.
- * QWC - I have to go to the bathroom
- * QWC? - Do you have to go to the bathroom?
- Variants of QWC. . . .
- * QWC? - Who cares?
- * QWC - I don't care }
- * QZZ - I fell asleep at the mike.
- * QZZ? - Is that a 60Hz hum, or are you snoring?



Growing up a Ham in Eastern Tennessee

By George Dominick, W4UWC

(The article below was provided by one of our newest members, George Dominick. George is one of the founding members of the SouthEast DX and Contesting Organization [SEDCO]. In addition, George is one of the group CDXA has named "The Tennessee Eight" that have been coming to the Charlotte Hamfest for a number of years. —The Editor)

My interest in Amateur Radio started when I was 15 years old in 1951. My father introduced me to a friend of his who was a ham and at that point my world changed. My father's friend was none other than John Stanbery, W4DPI. John was hired by Art Collins to sell commercial Collins AM and FM transmitters to radio stations throughout the Southeast. John had previously been associated with RCA in the same capacity so he knew his way around the industry. John quickly took me under his wing as my "Elmer". I often heard W4DPI talking to stations around the world on 20 meters AM on my borrowed RME-84 receiver. John had a very impressive station with all the right Collins equipment to work all the DX he wanted to with his Gordon 3 element beam. I passed the Novice exam in December 1951 and received my license in February 1952. My call was WN4UWC. I sure was excited and could not wait to get on the air. My Dad took pity on me and he added the difference to my savings to buy a TBS-50 Harvey Wells Bandmaster transmitter from Walter Ashe Radio in St. Louis. Since they knew I was a new ham they included a crystal for 3.741. I was soon installing a single wire-fed Windom antenna about 20 feet high. I was now "on the air". After calling several CQ's with my trusty J38, my first QSO took place on March 15, 1952 with another ham across town, Mac WN4TZD. Boy, what a start! Not DX like my Elmer but nonetheless my first QSO.

Shortly after I got started on the air, two things happened. First, the University of Tennessee student who had loaned me the RME-84 was leaving town and wanted his radio back. This was not good! Secondly, my Dad came through for me once again and quickly bought a used Hammarlund HQ-129X receiver from a local ham. This was good! The receiver was to be both my birthday and Christmas present which was, of course, fine with me. What a great present it was too. This receiver put me in the "big time DX" category. I knew that if I was not able to hear them I was not going to work them and now I could hear them! My DX career had started and my goal was to work DX like my

friend and Elmer, W4DPI. I well remember the late nights looking for that first W6 all the way across the USA.

Soon after becoming a Novice came the Technician and the General Class licenses—both of which I passed after about six or seven months being a Novice. This permitted me to drop the "N" in my call and now I was able to use other bands and frequencies.

My DXing changed from mostly CW to phone in short order. I constructed a 3 element 15 meter Johnson beam. Fifteen meters had become available not long before in 1953. This band proved to be a great DX band using both CW and phone. Fifteen meters continued to improve through the 50's and finally I received my phone DXCC #1168 in March 1968. An HT32B Hallicrafters put me on SSB in early 1958. I had many countries worked on CW however it was important to me to work them on phone like my Elmer had done. John and I had many lengthy QSO's and worked much DX together.

As time passed, my equipment changed with the goal of improving my DX endeavors. College took away some of my DXing time but not as much as it should have! I finally graduated, without honors! No big deal. After all, what was more important.... DXing or excelling in college work? Bingo, working DX! I soon had a real job, got married and we had two kids (small hams). My wife, Jane took me for better or worse so I guess in her eyes it was for worse! My DXing continued and she continued to tolerate my hobby. How could any Ham be so lucky?

As time further passed, a house on the hill, a taller tower and beams, and upgraded equipment permitted me to climb to 370 DXCC Phone. Looking back, I could have made it higher but missed a few along the way that are now deleted, plus more recently the P5 and the BS7. Oh well, some day if I live long enough the law of averages will catch up with me! Our son Marshall, K4UWC, is an engineer now and he got his Extra ticket when he was 14. Our lawyer daughter, Susan, is WD4UWC. As for my sweet wife, she still tolerates the tower and my ongoing interest in this great hobby.

Now that I have been retired for a couple of years, I still am having fun. I am still looking for another DX QSO just like my Elmer John, W4DPI who became SK in 1994. To my Dad and John, I owe them credit for the enjoyment of Amateur Radio for a lifetime of 57 years

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and counting.

Remember this, the longer we live, the more stories we have to tell and the more DX we can work. This is one of my stories.

A special thanks to all the friends I have made over the many years that have added so much, and continue to add, to my enjoyment of Amateur Radio.

Southeast VHF Society Conference, Recap

By John Scott, K8YC

It took four years to see the Southeast VHF Society return to Charlotte for its annual conference held on April 24-25. One of the reasons it surely was back here was because of the active role played by a number of CDXA members in putting on the event. At the risk of missing somebody, I'd surely like to recognize Bill Fisher, W4GRW, as the conference chairman. Able assistance to Bill from CDXA came from Guy Titman, Thomas Wright, Paul Trotter, Ken Boyd, Gary Dixon, Pat Patterson, Ted Goldthorpe, Joe Barkley, and Pete Manfre. Les Zavadil, a new CDXA member this month, also serves on the SVHFS Board of Directors along with Thomas Wright and Guy Titman. If you have not been following this event, CDXA was an official sponsor of this year's conference, and in my role solely as an attendee, I'd say CDXA helped put on a pretty good conference.

The regular order of business at this conference is to have an outdoor antenna range set up on Friday morning for folks to test their home brewed antennas. The best home-brewed antenna for each band wins an award. Inside, another team runs a competition to find the best preamplifier designed and built by SVHFS members—both gain and noise figure are measured and the “best” wins an award.

A noon luncheon before the actual conference kicks off is the norm. This year Gene Zimmerman (W3ZZ), columnist of QST's “The World Above 50 MHz” gave a keynote presentation for the assemblage. After lunch, it was on with the show!

In addition to being conference organizers, CDXA provided several speakers for the event. Dave Pedersen (N7BHC) made two presentations on related topics. Dave has a high interest in transoceanic VHF ducting subsidence temperature inversions—something he became aware of as a resident of South Africa which experiences well defined ducts toward Reunion Island.

So, one of Dave's topics was to explain ducting caused by subsidence temperature inversions in the mid-latitudes. As proof of his premise, Dave found amateurs in Saint Helena Island in mid-Atlantic regularly hear stations from South Africa and Brazil on VHF frequencies. Dave's second, related topic held the premise that the very ducts he knows exists in the South Atlantic have not been discovered because nobody is listening in sparsely settled areas. Accordingly, Dave has developed, and encourages sponsorships of a beacon system to ensure that there ARE listeners for the presence of the ducts. Both of Dave's talks were well received—so much so that his presentation was voted the “best of show”.

Paul Trotter (AA4ZZ) made a presentation on his successful efforts to improve the front end rejection characteristics of the Kenwood TS-2000 transceiver. The “out of the box” characteristics of this receiver for the VHF/UHF bands in a mountaintop environment were found wanting, but Paul's modifications now make it a fine transceiver for mountaintop VHF contesting.

On day two of the conference Pat Patterson (N4BH) and Joe Barkley (KI4TZ) gave an animated presentation of the difficulties of transporting all their gear, including EME arrays, from Charlotte (EM95) to FM13 to give the VHF community an opportunity to work this rare gridsquare. Besides a severe tropical storm which spawned waterspouts passing within yards of their tent-based operating position, the sandy soil of the seashore environment made guying towers (and climbing them) a risky business.

There were many other speakers who talked on a broad range of topics. My experience in microwave technology is nil, but I found myself fascinated by what members of this group are doing. Even if you don't know microwave technology, my recommendation is to go to this conference, keep “your soul in the conference room”, try to follow what's going on, ask a lot of questions at the breaks, and you'll come away with a lot of new knowledge.

When I attended this same conference in 2005, I felt then and reported same in the *Pileup* that hams working in VHF, UHF, and Microwave regions represent one of the “new frontiers” of ham radio. This is because so much of their equipment must be fashioned by modifying commercial equipment made only for commercial frequencies.

It may be a few years before Charlotte hosts this conference again. When it comes to Charlotte again, I encourage you to attend.

The Back Page (What's Inside!)

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*****BREAKING NEWS*** FCC Releases Redacted data on BPL rulemaking** as ordered by U.S. Court of Appeals. A must read for all hams. See Page 2.

Looking back ten and twenty years on CDXA happenings. See Page 3.

CQWW participation in 2008 exceeds 10,000 logs. CW participation exceeds that of SSB. CW isn't dead yet! See Page 3.

Southern Hospitality (Southern Italy, that is!) See Page 4.

How to **position your beam** to geographic north. See Page 5.

DX King/CQ Marathon Update for April 2009. See Page 6.

Seven new members arrive on the scene in March/April period! See Page 7.

New CDXA member, **George Dominick (W4UWC)**, tells us what it's like **growing up as a ham in Eastern Tennessee**. See Page 8.

Southeast VHF Society Conference 2009 in Charlotte had lots of CDXA participation. See Page 9.

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Note: Your editor gets his semiannual publishing break in June. He'll be with you again in early July.

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